

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00 EB-11 AGR-20

SWF-02 CIEP-02 /208 W

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O R 171545Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8415

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH NG

SUBJECT: GON BREAKS RELATIONS WITH REPUBLIC OF CHINA

REF: A. NIAMEY 2417 B. NIAMEY 1888

SUMMARY: IN WAKE OF GON DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PRC, GRC MISSION PLANNING CLOSE UP IN ABOUT MONTH. WE NEED IMMEDIATE DECISION ON AID R AND R PROJECT INVOLVING \$500,000 OF HEAVY EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR GRC RICE CULTIVATION PROJECT AND WILL BE DISCUSSING OPTIONS WITH GON.

1. AS REPORTED REF A ABOVE, GON ANNOUNCED JULY 16 THAT IT HAD RECOGNIZED PRC AS SOLE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA THUS BRINGING TO END NIGER'S RELATIONS WITH REPUBLIC OF CHINA WHICH HAVE ENDURED SINCE EARLY 60'S. AMBASSADOR LEE NAN-HSING
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WHO HAS BEEN HERE SINCE 1967 AND AS SUCH MOST

SENIOR RESIDENT AMBASSADOR, TELLS ME HE WAS CALLED IN JULY 16 BY ACTING FORMIN BOULAMA MANGA TO BE INFORMED OFFICIALLY OF GOVERNMENT'S DECISION BUT HE SAID HE HAD BEEN AWARE OF DEVELOPMENT WHEN HE LEARNED OVER WEEKEND THAT MIN OF DEVELOPMENT MAJOR SANI, NUMBER TWO IN GOVERNMENT, AND FORMIN DJERMAKOYE HAD LEFT JULY 14 FOR PEKING.

2. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR LEE THIS MORNING JULY 17, HE SAID HE PLANS TO LEAVE FOR US WHERE HIS FAMILY HAS BEEN LIVING FOR OVER A YEAR AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS FROM TAIPEI. HE INTENDS LEAVE MISSION IN CHARGE OF SECOND SECRETARY LEE PO-FEN WHO IS EXPECTED REMAIN FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH TO SUPERVISE DEPARTURE OF CHINESE TECHNICIANS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL CHINESE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NIGER. THESE TECHNICIANS NUMBER ABOUT 50 AND ARE SPREAD AROUND COUNTRY IN VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL AND RICE GROWING PROJECTS. SO FAR GON HAS NOT IMPOSED ANY TIME LIMIT ON CLOSING OF GRC MISSION HERE AND AMBASSADOR LEE ASSUMES THAT ONE MONTH IS SUFFICIENT TIME TO CLOSE SHOP BEFORE ARRIVAL OF PRC REPS.

3. AMBASSADOR LEE SPECULATES THAT NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO RECOGNITION OF PRC WERE CONDUCTED IN EITHER ALGIERS OR LOME AND FINAL MESSAGE FROM PRC WAS PROBABLY CARRIED BY GRUNK DELEGATION WHICH WAS IN TOWN LAST WEEK (NIAMEY 2308). SAYING HE EXPECTED THIS DEVELOPMENT EVER SINCE MILITARY COUP IN APRIL HE ATTRIBUTED GON DECISION TO ITS DESIRE TO BREAK OUT OF FOREIGN POLICY MOLD OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND TO HOPES OF SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AID WHICH HE SAYS PEKING HAS BEEN DANGLING BEFORE NIGERIENS.

4. THIS DEVELOPMENT POSES ONE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FOR US ON WHICH WE WILL NEED ANSWER SOONEST. INCLUDED IN DROUGHT R AND R PROGRAM FOR NIGER AND ALSO LARGEST ELEMENT IS NIG-02 "ACCELERATED CHINESE RICE" IN WHICH WE HAVE AGREED TO PURCHASE OF \$500,000 OF HEAVY CAT-ERPILLAR EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT (NIAMEY 1888) TO

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EXPAND CHINESE-MANAGED RICE CULTIVATION PROJECT OUTSIDE NIAMEY. THIS INPUT WAS DESIGNED ENABLE GON WITH GRC TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION BY ABOUT 6000 MT ANNUALLY AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE WORK FOR ABOUT 4,000 UNEMPLOYED PEASANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. TOTAL COST OF EQUIPMENT IS NEARLY \$510,000 WITH GRC SCHEDULED TO PICK UP ALL COSTS OVER \$500,000. HOWEVER WE HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN OUR R AND R PROGRAM TO COVER EXTRA COSTS IF THIS BECOMES

NECESSARY.

5. ORDER FOR THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN PLACED BUT COULD BE HELD OR CANCELLED. WE NEED IMMEDIATE DECISION ON THIS POINT. IN THIS CONNECTION AMBASSADOR LEE SAYS THAT GRC IS PULLING OUT OF THIS PROJECT AND LEAVING ITS FATE IN HANDS OF GON. HE REPORTS THAT IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS ELSEWHERE PRC HAS TAKEN OVER THESE RICE CULTIVATION PROJECTS. AMBASSADOR LEE REPORTS HE IS TELLING FRENCH COMPANIES WITH WHICH HE DOES BUSINESS HERE THAT THEY HAVE OPTION OF (A) CANCELLING GRC ORDERS, (B) SENDING BILLS TO GON, (C) DEALING WITH PRC WHEN ITS REPS GET HERE.

6. IMPLEMENTATION LETTER FOR NIG-02 IS READY FOR SIGNATURE WITH GON. WE FACE QUICK DECISION BECAUSE 30 PCNT PAYMENT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE (REF B). WE FEEL EQUIPMENT ORDERS SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE CANCELLED GIVEN PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS IN NIGER PLUS SCARCITY OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT IN AFRICA. HOWEVER, WE PLAN DISCUSS MATTER WITH GON AS MATTER OR URGENCY AND WILL BE SUBMITTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON POSSIBLE USE OF THESE FUNDS, IN TERMS OF FOLLOWING OPTIONS THAT OCCUR TO US:

(A) GIVE EQUIPMENT TO GENIA RURAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS AT UNSPECIFIED LOCATIONS.

(B) GIVE EQUIPMENT TO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS TO BE USED AS NEEDED FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF ROADS DAMAGED BY RAINS.

(C) CANCEL EQUIPMENT ORDER AND SHIFT R AND R FUNDS TO OTHER ACTIVITIES TO BE SELECTED BY ADO/AADO.
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